

## Historical Note on Extant Manuscripts of Kaigoharnama

Kaigoharnama, the history or chronicle of the Gakkhar tribe was written by Raizada Diwan Dunichand in 1137 AH (1724-25 AD). This book was written on the orders of Sultan Mubariz Khan and Sultan Dilawar Khan, Gakkhar rulers of parganahs of Akbarabad-Takhtpari and Pharwala, respectively. Raizada Dunichand was the hereditary qanungo or registrar of lands and revenue during the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and belonged to the village Gulyana (Gujar Khan). He was a man of exceptional talents, a government official, historian, poet, and traveler, and was able to produce a scholarly work that not only records the history of the Gakkhars but also serves as a valuable source of information about contemporary society [1]. Raizada Dunichand passed away in 1743 [2]. After his death, his son Raizada Brijnath made additions to the Kaigoharnama on the orders of Sultan Nadir Ali Khan, son of Sultan Muqarrab Khan, and au courant events were recorded. Later, Raizada Ratanchand, a descendent of Raizada Dunichand updated the book till the time of the British takeover of the Punjab [3, 4].

Since 2022, I have made a concerted effort to identify and locate all extant manuscripts of the Kaigoharnama inside Pakistan and abroad, and to acquire their digital copies. The objective was to perform textual analysis and to compare the contents of all available manuscripts. Furthermore, many a time, the scribes of such manuscripts note down contemporary events on the margins of the folios and on vacant pages. These notes are an additional source of information about different events and personalities concerning Gakkhar history. Reading and analyzing the digital copies of the manuscripts of Kaigoharnama and certain other books related to the history of Pothohar and its people, I have made many interesting findings, the date of the passing away of Raizada Dunichand being one such instance, as noted in the preceding paragraph.

It is important to note that no manuscript of Kaigoharnama from the 18<sup>th</sup> century has been identified so far. The manuscripts that exist today were all prepared from the previous versions by scribes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest surviving manuscript has been dated to ca. 1802-03 [2]. Establishing the antiquity of this particular manuscript has been a challenge. In this manuscript, besides the Kaigoharnama, many items of poetry and prose attributed to Raizada Dunichand have been combined in a single volume, a common practice among scriveners in that era. There is a possibility that this manuscript may be of an earlier date, an inference that is partly supported by its content and style, and partly by a careful reading of the chronology of notes scribbled throughout the volume by successive generations of owners. Overall, I have been able to catalog 20 manuscripts of Kaigoharnama that exist today both in libraries and in private collections. Out of these 20 manuscripts, digital

copies of 14 manuscripts have been acquired thus far. The bibliographical data of all manuscripts that have come to light to date has been presented in the following table:

Sr. No.	Manuscript Title	Library or Collection	Catalog No.	Scribe/Year	Copy Acquired
1.	Kaigoharnama	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H112 [5]	Unknown/ca. 1802-03	Yes
2.	Kaigoharnama [6]	Raja Kifayat Ali Khan Collection (Village Jandot, Sohawa)	Not Applicable	Mian Ibrahim/1825-26	No
3.	Kaigoharnama	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H55-7800 [5]	Raizada Ratanchand/1831-32	Yes
4.	Kaigoharnama	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H54-7799 [5]	Raizada Ratanchand/1833-34	Yes
5.	Kaygauhar-Nama	The Asiatic Society, Kolkata	D-171 [7]	Unknown/ca. 1834-35	In Process
6.	Tarikh-i-Gakkharan	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H58-7803 [5]	Raizada Ratanchand/1839-40	Yes
7.	Kaigauhar Namah	British Museum, London	Or. 1740 [8]	Unknown/ca. 1850	No
8.	Kaigauharnamah	British Museum, London	Or. 5884 [9]	Raizada Ratanchand/1854	Yes
9.	Ghakkarnama	British Library, London	3021 [10]	Pandit Kedarnath/1854	Yes
10.	Kaigoharnama	Ganj Bakhsh Library, Islamabad	3321 [11]	Unknown/1858-59	Yes
11.	Kaigoharnama	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H52-7797 [5]	Raizada Ratanchand/1859-60	Yes
12.	Kaigoharnama	Punjab University Library, Lahore	H53-7798 [5]	Unknown/ca. 1866	Yes
13.	Kaigoharnama	Ganj Bakhsh Library, Islamabad	1653 [11]	Burhan-ud-Din/1904 [13]	Yes
14.	Kaigoharnama	Sultan Zahur Akhtar Collection (Rawalpindi)	Not Applicable	Burhan-ud-Din/1908	Yes
15.	Kaigoharnama [3]	Raja Ali Haider Khan Collection (Village Gadari, Sohawa)	Not Applicable	Nur Alam/1912	No
16.	Kaigoharnama	Raja M. Aslam Khan Collection (Village Bakrala, Sohawa)	Not Applicable	Akram/1920-21	Yes
17.	Kaigoharnama	Raja M. Aslam Khan Collection (Village Bakrala, Sohawa)	Not Applicable	Abdul Karim/1935	Yes
18.	Tarikh-i-Gakkharan	Punjab University Library, Lahore	854-3887[12]	Ghulam Rasul/Unknown	Yes
19.	Kaigoharnama [13]	Khilafat Library, Chiniot	Not Available	Unknown/Unknown	No
20.	Kaigoharnama [14]	Raja Gulzar Khan Collection (Ahmedabad)	Not Applicable	Unknown/Unknown	No

## References

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5. Syed Khizar Abbasi Naushahi, *A Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in the Azir Collection of the Punjab University Library*, Lahore, Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, 1986.
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14. Syed Abu Zafar Nadvi, "Gakkharnama", *Ma'arif*, Vol. 60, No. 1, 1947, pp. 64-76.

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## Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Mr. Mohammed Afaq Kayani (Burton upon Trent, UK), Mr. Muhammad Safdar (Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad), Mr. Hasan Nawaz Shah (Village Narali, Gujar Khan), Mr. Raja Mobeen Akhtar (Rawalpindi), Dr. Hamid Ali (Punjab University Library, Lahore), and Prof. (R) Salahauddin (Mirpur) for their assistance in acquiring digital copies of the extant manuscripts of *Kaigoharnama*.